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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Economic - Coal
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED USSR
 DATE PUBLISHED 28 May - 30 Jun 1950
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950
 DATE DIST. 25 Sep 1950
 NO. OF PAGES 4
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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COAL INDUSTRY LAX IN EXPLOITATION OF MINING MACHINES

In the Moscow Basin the technical equipment of coal mines is three times as good as before World War II. Such heavy work as cutting, shooting, and conveying coal is mechanized and coal loading at the mine faces is partially mechanized. Pneumatic drills, cutting machines, mechanical coal loaders, and combines are in operation in the mines. Coal mining was 99.8 percent mechanized during the first quarter 1950.

However, many machines are either idle or not exploited to capacity. Heavy machines such as the S-153 coal loader are very inadequately exploited. Of a total of 126 machines, only 71 are in use and even these could be utilized to better advantage. In January 1950, the average productivity of the S-153 coal loader was 79 linear meters instead of the expected 100; in February it was 73, in both March and April 82, and in May 76.7.(1)

Miners of the Moskvougol' Combine completed the half-year plan for coal output on 28 June and the half-year plan for development work even earlier.(2) Mines of the Moskvougol' Combine have a large number of electric locomotives, including small ones intended for moving coal cut during development work and for conveying timber and other materials to the mine faces. The plan for utilizing these locomotives was completed only 80 percent during the first quarter 1950.(1)

The Tulaugol' Combine has won the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR for 5 consecutive months. On 27 June the combine completed the half-year plan for coal output. The average daily production of coal is 16.6 percent higher than in the first half of 1949, and labor productivity is 14.4 percent higher. The combine saved 1.1 million rubles during 5 months by reducing operating costs.(3)

The Ministry of the Coal Industry has approved the program of introducing additional modern techniques into the mines of Georgia. It is planned to use the GTK-3 cutting machine to cut 27 percent of the coal mined. Coal from mine faces of dipping seams will be conveyed by scraper conveyers. Mechanized mining has increased in the mines of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust with the advent of the cutting and loading machines. Five of these machines will be in operation in

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Tkvarcheli by the end of 1950. An increase in haulage by electric locomotive has completely eliminated manual labor in haulage of coal and rock. The mines are receiving new light and heavy electric locomotives and the stock of mine cars has greatly increased.(4)

The Mine imeni Stalin of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust has been in operation for 15 years. It has been particularly successful during the postwar Five-Year Plan, fulfilling or exceeding the plan each year and supplying the country during the past 4 years with over 100,000 tons of coal above plan. The plan for coal output and development work has been considerably exceeded during the first 5 months of 1950.

At present, almost all types of work are being carried on with the aid of mechanical devices. Coal is being cut at the mine faces by heavy cutting machines. Drilling is done by electric drills. Coal transport at the mine faces and along the drifts is carried out almost entirely by scraper conveyers, which have replaced the inefficient and inconvenient shaker conveyers. There are more than ten electric locomotives available for coal haulage. A total of more than 300 mechanical devices carry out all phases of coal mining and coal and rock haulage.

The Mine imeni Stalin was the first in the Georgian coal industry to master and put into use the cutting and loading machine which mechanized coal mining at the mine faces. The "Donbass" combine is also soon to be used in this mine.(5)

Miners of Akhiblar Mine of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust completed the half-year plan for coal output on 31 May. The May plan for basic development work was exceeded by the workers.(6)

At mines of the Tkibulugol' Trust there is a constant increase in the use of hydraulic backfilling of worked-out areas in connection with coal mining.(4)

In the Karaganda Basin, 25 coal mines and pits have fulfilled the half-year plan and have shipped dozens of trainloads of coal on the second half-year quota. The Mine imeni Zhdanov, Mine imeni Kirov, No 20-bis, Coal Pit No 4, and others are included in this number.(7) During the first 10 days of June the Karagandaugol' Combine achieved the highest level of coal output which has ever been attained in the basin.(8) The entire combine completed the 1950 half-year plan during the first shift on 26 June.(7)

Workers in the Mine imeni Kirov have particularly increased their coal output as compared with May. The first section of this mine which is equipped with scraper conveyers is delivering coal in a steady stream. A brigade engaged at the mine face of this section has achieved a record performance of 380 tons per shift, or 25 tons per member of the brigade instead of the norm of 10. A brigade of mine development workers cut 329 linear meters in May, the highest record for this type of work. The brigade pledged to cut 400 linear meters in June and during the first 9 days had already cut 150, more than double its quota.(8)

The first "US-4" coal stripper in the basin was recently put into operation at a mine face of the third section of Mine No 7 of the Kirovugol' Trust. The machine has freed 25 cutting and loading workers.(9)

Two thirds of the various phases of coal mining are carried out by machines at Mine No 50/52. Workers in this mine were the first to complete their 8-month quota and have already shipped several trainloads of coal on the September quota.

Four loading machines have been put into operation in Mine No 17-bis. Mining machinery has eliminated the manual labor of 80 cutting and loading personnel. Mine No 17-bis has been producing coal on the second half-year quota for 2 weeks.(7)

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In the Kirgizugol' Trust, the level of mechanization is unsatisfactory. Available machinery is being exploited inefficiently and is frequently idle. Although the mines of the Kok-Yangak Mine Administration have coal-cutting machines, mechanized coal cutting is being carried on only to a slight degree. During the first quarter 1950, coal loading during development work was mechanized only 7 percent and rock loading 38 percent.(10)

However, a favorable report on the Kok-Yangak Kapital'naya Mine has been received. Coal-cutting machines, rock-loading machines, and different types of conveyers introduced in this mine have made it possible to mechanize many labor-consuming processes, lighten the work of the miners, and increase the coal output. The miners are fulfilling the plan from month to month. During 5 months of 1950 they delivered to the country 9,000 tons of coal about the plan. On 20 May the mine completed the Five-Year Plan and during the second shift on the same day work was begun on the 1951 quota. "GBK" and "KMP" cutting machines are being used at the mine face in the first section of this mine.(11)

The situation is worse at the Kyzyl-Kiya Mine than at Kok-Yangak. Although plans had been made to mechanize coal loading at the mine faces, the directors of the mine did nothing during the first quarter 1950 to carry this out. No average progressive norms have been set for exploiting machinery in the mines. Not all of the equipment is actually in operation. During the first quarter 1950, only one of the three coal-loading machines was in operation in the Kyzyl-Kiya Mine.(10)

Nevertheless, the Kyzyl-Kiya Komsomol'skaya Mine is considered outstanding in the coal industry of Kirgiz SSR. By November 1949 the mine had reported fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan, and the rate of coal mining continues to increase here. Miners have pledged to fulfill the year plan for coal output by 7 November and to deliver 25,000 tons of coal above plan before the end of the year. Mine development workers have pledged to develop 500 meters above the plan and to increase the operational front 25 percent. All workers have pledged to raise the labor productivity of each worker 10 percent above the plan, to save not less than one million rubles before the end of 1950, to increase the output of large and medium-sized varieties of coal 3 percent and at the same time to lower the ash content 0.5 percent more than called for in the plan.(12)

There are still other mines of the Kirgizugol' Trust which fail to exploit available machinery and whose work reflects this fact. At the Sulyukta Mine only four of the eight cutting machines are in use and half the available coal-loading machines are idle. Production of both of the Tash-Kumyr mines is lagging.(10)

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